

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1615

**Introduced by Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the
Economy (Ridley-Thomas (Chair), Chan, Jackson, Nation,
Oropeza, Parra, and Yee)**

February 21, 2003

An act to amend Section 1690 of the Harbors and Navigation Code,
relating to harbors.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1615, as introduced, Committee on Jobs, Economic
Development, and the Economy. Harbors: ports: security.

Existing law sets forth the intent of the Legislature regarding the
state's ports and harbors.

This bill, additionally, would set forth the intent of the Legislature to
implement a comprehensive and coordinated plan for the security and
safety of California's ports and harbors.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 1690 of the Harbors and Navigation
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 1690. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:
- 4 (a) The state has a compelling interest in the success of her ports
- 5 and harbors because they provide significant economic benefit to
- 6 the state in terms of jobs, personal income, business revenue, and
- 7 taxes.

1 (b) Ports and harbors are the vital interface between water and
2 land transportation for trade with the Pacific Rim countries and
3 other trade.

4 (c) Historically, California's ports and harbors have been
5 self-supporting.

6 (d) The report of the California Transportation Commission
7 entitled "Improving Access to California's Ports," dated February
8 1990, found that \$897 million is needed for port access
9 transportation projects.

10 (e) In addition to port access transportation projects, there is a
11 need for new harbor facilities and to restore facilities damaged in
12 the Loma Prieta earthquake.

13 (f) Because of shrinking federal and state funding and the
14 increasing demand for those limited funds, ports and harbors are
15 no longer able to finance projects of this magnitude without a new
16 funding mechanism.

17 (g) It is the intent of the Legislature to assist in the reduction of
18 local borrowing costs, help accelerate the construction, repair, and
19 maintenance of port capital improvements, and promote greater
20 use of existing and new financial instruments and mechanisms.

21 *(h) It is also the intent of the Legislature to implement a*
22 *comprehensive and coordinated plan for the security and safety of*
23 *California's ports and harbors.*

